



Fifth Sunday of Easter

**ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH – Hamburg
FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH**

Sunday, May 3, 2026

8:30 a.m. and 10:15 a.m.

Monday, May 4, 2026

6:30 p.m.

1 Peter 2:9 – *“But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.”* God has called us to be His own. He has chosen us out of love, out of mercy, out of sheer, divine joy. The apostle Peter says that God chose us so that we might share in His glory and “proclaim the excellencies of Him” who has made us His own. And truly, this is our delight! His joy brings joy to our hearts as well.



WELCOME VISITORS: We extend a warm welcome to all our visitors today. We pray that your worship with us is rewarding. Please be sure to sign your name and address in our guest register, located in the narthex. If you are looking for a church home

we would like to invite you to be a part of our Bible Based Church family.

RECEIVING THE HOLY SACRAMENT

In deep Christian love and commitment to the Word of God we continue to hold to the Biblical and Ancient practice of close communion. We believe that those who commune together must confess the same faith, and



recognize the great power and real presence of the body and blood Christ in, with and under the bread and the wine. (*1 Corinthians 10:16-18; 11:23-29; Romans 16:17*). Likewise, since one’s membership helps promote that church’s major teachings we ask that only those commune who are confirmed and communicant members of the LCMS, and who are not under church discipline. Thank you for respecting our beliefs and practices. Please pray with us for honest unity around the Word of God. If you have any question please contact Pastor Love. *NOTE: Gluten free wafers are now available at the Lord’s Table. Please let Pastor know before worship service that you would like the gluten free wafers.”*

Order of Service
Divine Service IV
LSB page 203

Opening Hymn

“Christ the Lord Is Risen Today”

LSB #469

Invocation

*The sign of the cross may be made by all
in remembrance of their Baptism.*

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.
- P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,
- C** **who made heaven and earth.**
- P** If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?
- C** **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

Confession and Absolution

- P** Since we are gathered to hear God’s Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.
- C** **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

- P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit,
- C** Amen.

SERVICE OF THE WORD

Psalm 146

- P** ¹Praise the LORD!
Praise the LORD, O my soul!
- C** ²I will praise the LORD as long as I live;
I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.
- P** ³Put not your trust in princes,
in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation.
- C** ⁴When his breath departs he returns to the earth;

on that very day
his plans perish.

P ⁵Blessèd is he
whose help is the God of Jacob,

whose hope is in
the LORD his God,

C ⁶who made
heaven and earth,
the sea, and all
that is in them,
who keeps faith
forever;

P ⁷who executes
justice for the oppressed,
who gives food to
the hungry.

The LORD sets the
prisoners free;



- C** ⁸the LORD opens the eyes of the blind.
The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;
the LORD loves the righteous.
- P** ⁹The LORD watches over the sojourners;
he upholds the widow and the fatherless,
but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.
- C** ¹⁰The LORD will reign forever,
your God, O Zion, to all generations. Praise the
LORD!

Kyrie

LSB 204

Gloria in Excelsis

LSB 204

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

O God, You make the minds of Your faithful to be of one will. Grant that we may love what You have commanded and desire what You promise, that among the many changes of this world our hearts may be fixed where true joys are found; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

First Reading

Acts 6:1–9; 7:2a, 51–60

¹Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. ²And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. ³Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. ⁴But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word." ⁵And what they said pleased



the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte

of Antioch. ⁶These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them.

⁷And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.

⁸And Stephen, full of grace and power, was doing great wonders and signs among the people. ⁹Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), and of the Cyrenians, and of the Alexandrians, and of those from Cilicia and Asia, rose up and disputed with Stephen. . . .

²And Stephen said:

“Brothers and fathers, hear me. . . .

⁵¹You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you. ⁵²Which of the prophets did not your fathers persecute? And they killed those who announced beforehand the coming of the Righteous One, whom you have now betrayed and murdered, ⁵³you who received the law as delivered by angels and did not keep it.”

⁵⁴Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth at him. ⁵⁵But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶And he said, “Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.” ⁵⁷But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together at him. ⁵⁸Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹And as they were stoning Stephen, he called

out, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” ⁶⁰And falling to his knees he cried out with a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

1 Peter 2:2–10

²Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up to salvation— ³if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

⁴As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, ⁵you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶For it stands in Scripture:

“Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone,
a cornerstone chosen and precious,
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

⁷So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe,

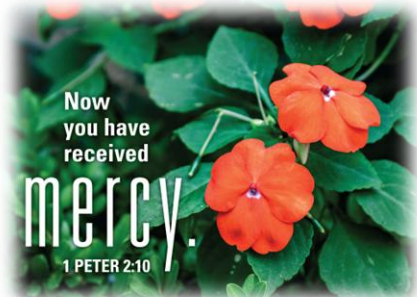
“The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone,”

⁸and

“A stone of stumbling,
and a rock of offense.”

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

⁹But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of



darkness into his marvelous light. ¹⁰Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Alleluia and Verse

LSB 205

Holy Gospel

John 14:1–14

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fourteenth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹[Jesus said:] “Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ²In my Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. ⁴And you know the way to where I am going.” ⁵Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” ⁶Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

⁸Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.” ⁹Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? ¹⁰Do you not believe that I am in



the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves.

¹²“Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. ¹³Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

C I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,

and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life
✠ of the world to come. Amen.

Sermon Hymn

“Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me”

LSB #722

Sermon

Prayers of the Church

Offering

Offertory Response

“We Give Thee But Thine Own”

LSB #781 sts. 1–2

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

Preface

LSB 208

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we

laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

LSB 208

Prayer of Thanksgiving

P Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

For Christ, our Passover Lamb, has been sacrificed. By His death, He has redeemed us from bondage to sin and death, and by His resurrection, He has delivered us into new life in Him.

Grant us to keep the Feast in sincerity and truth, faithfully eating His body given into death and drinking His life's blood poured out for our salvation until we pass through death to the promised land of life eternal.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

Lord's Prayer

C **Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

The Words of Our Lord

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My † blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

Pax Domini

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

Agnus Dei

LSB 210

Distribution

Distribution Hymns

“At the Lamb’s High Feast We Sing”

LSB #633

“O Savior, Precious Savior”

LSB #527

“O Lord, We Praise Thee”

LSB #617

Nunc Dimittis

LSB 211

Post-Communion Collect

P Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Benedicamus

LSB 212

P Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.
- C** Amen.

Closing Hymn “This Joyful Eastertide”

LSB #482

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book
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DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Sunday: Leviticus 20:1-16, 22-27;
Luke 11:37-54

Monday: Leviticus 21:1-24; Luke 12:1-12

Tuesday: Leviticus 23:1-22; Luke 12:13-34

Wednesday: Leviticus 23:23-44;
Luke 12:35-53

Thursday: Leviticus 24:1-23;

Leviticus 25:1-55; Luke 12:54 – 13:17

Friday: Leviticus 26:1-20; Luke 13:18-35

Saturday: Leviticus 26:21-33, 39-44; Numbers 1:1 – 2:34;
Luke 14:1-24

TODAY Vacation Bible School Kickoff



Sunday, May 3 after church services at St. John's and at Faith. A chance to see what we're doing this year and for adults, children and

volunteers to sign up to volunteer.

VBS will be June 8-10.



CHURCH CALENDAR ST. JOHN'S and FAITH

Sunday, May 3

8:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion at St. John's

9:30 a.m. VBS Kickoff following worship

10:15 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion at Faith

11:15 a.m. VBS Kickoff following worship

11:15 a.m. Bible Study at Faith

11:15 a.m. Stewardship and Evangelism at Faith

12:15 p.m. Inspired Singles Potluck at Faith

Monday, May 4

5:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

6:30 p.m. Worship with Holy Communion at Faith

Tuesday, May 5

10:00 a.m. Board of Trustees at Faith

1:00 p.m. Women of Faith

Wednesday, May 6

5:30 p.m. Confirmation Class at Faith

Thursday, May 7

10:30 a.m. Community Bible Class at St. John's

6:00 p.m. Mary Martha Guild

Friday, May 8

12 noon – 4:00 p.m. Hanging Basket pick up at St. John's

Sunday, May 10

8:30 a.m. Worship at St. John's

10:15 a.m. Worship at Faith

11:15 a.m. Bible Study at Faith

Monday, May 11

5:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

6:30 p.m. Worship at Faith

7:30 p.m. Elders' Meeting at Faith

Tuesday, May 12

6:00 p.m. Church Council at St. John's

7:15 p.m. Elders' Meeting at St. John's

Wednesday, May 13

5:30 p.m. Confirmation Class at Faith

Thursday, May 14

10:30 a.m. Community Bible Study at St. John's



**FAITH and ST. JOHN'S
LUTHERAN CHURCHES**

*Please remember the following in
your prayers:*

Gary Baumann Lisa Burish
Joe Calmes David Czech Doris Dahlke
Rodney Dahlke Alice Fromm Christopher Emmerich
Wallace Emmerich Jim Goetsch Duane Grunenwald
Gerhard Hannemann Angie Harkner Dale Janisch
Cecelia & Lucille Klade Rob Koebe Jim Koebe Hugo
Koppa Karen Love Bob Meyer Gene Mootz
Debbie Olson Sarah Piel Mark Pester Bob Porath
Marge Radenz Karen Rajek Jo Schedler
MiKenzie Schultz Audrey Steckling Lorraine Steckling
Carl Uttech Deb Wiederhoeft Florence Williamson
Laurie Young Susie and Ellie Zastrow



VBS planning meeting
at Faith
on Sunday, May 17
at 12:15 p.m.

HANGING BASKETS

Pick up at St John's
Friday, May 8
12 noon – 4:00 p.m.



ISI (*Iron Sharpens Iron*)

Sunday, May 17
4:30 p.m.
Pine Ridge Restaurant
Merrill



Heartfelt thanks to Living River for sharing the gifts God gave the quartet as they gave praise to the Lord and helped us worship the Lord with their beautiful music. **Also appreciation to all those at**

Faith for their incredible dedication to organizing such a fantastic event. Your efforts created a warm and welcoming atmosphere for all. Many thanks for the countless hours you put into planning and hosting. The event's success is a clear reflection of your care and dedication to our church community.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank You for your generous sacrificial offerings to the Lord, to help us keep our ministry going. You can also mail your offerings to Our Churches at

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

15425 County Road K South, Merrill, WI 54452 or

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

134058 County Road L, Athens, WI 54411

(Please do not send hard cash through the mail)

Please help us spread the Word. Visit us online at Pastor's (Don Love) Facebook Page, or Faith Lutheran Church, or on the church website at

www.faithlutheranmerrill.com